

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ARA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01 /088 W

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P R 261213Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6129

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1239

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, US, AO

SUBJECT: UNITA REQUEST

REF: (A) LISBON 1189 (DTG 241425Z FEB 76), (B) STATE 044126

(DTG 241657Z FEB 76)

SUMMARY: LISBON UNITA REP MET PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, WHO ASKED ABOUT FUTURE UNITA PLANS, BUT DID NOT ORDER SHUTTING DOWN OF LISBON OFFICE. END SUMMARY.

1. UNITA LISBON REPRESENTATIVE PAULO TCHIPILIKA CONTACTED EMBOFF FEB 26 TO INFORM HIM OF OUTCOME OF TCHIPILIKA'S FEB 24 MEETING
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WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES (REFTELS). COSTA GOMES ASKED ABOUT

UNITA'S PLANS IN LIGHT OF GOP RECOGNITION OF MPLA. TCHIPILIKA RESPONDED THAT HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN UNTIL FEB 28 MEETING OF UNITA POLITICAL BUREAU IN LONDON, WHICH HE PLANNED ATTEND. HE ASKED FOR EIGHT DAYS IN WHICH TO RESPOND TO PRESIDENT'S QUERY. HE FURTHER ASKED THAT, IN INTERIM, GOP GUARANTEE SECURITY OF UNITA LISBON OFFICES AGAINST POSSIBLE ACTION BY MPLA SUPPORTERS. PRESIDENT AGREED TO BOTH REQUESTS.

2. TCHIPILIKA TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WILL PROBABLY BE ORDERED BY POLITICAL BUREAU TO ACTIVELY RESIST CURRENT MPLA EFFORTS TO COURT ANGOLAN RETURNEES IN PORTUGAL. WHEN HE RETURNS FROM LONDON, HE PLANS TO CALL A PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE HE WILL DENOUNCE IN STRONG TERMS MPLA AND SOVIET-CUBAN ATROCITIES IN ANGOLA AND ROLE OF KEY INDIVIDUALS IN GOP -- ESPECIALLY COSTA GOMES -- IN SUPPORTING MPLA AGAINST UNITA AND FNLA. HE EXPECTS GOP WILL TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT HIS SPEAKING OUT, BUT IS UNCERTAIN WHAT FORM REPRESSION WILL TAKE. AS A PORTUGUESE CITIZEN, HE CANNOT BE DEPORTED, AND HE DOUBTS THE GOP WOULD RISK THE PUBLICITY INVOLVED IN ARRESTING HIM. HE DEEMED IT PROBABLE, HOWEVER, THAT LEGAL JUSTIFICATION WOULD BE FOUND OR TRUMPED UP FOR CLOSING DOWN UNITA'S OFFICE IN LISBON.

3. COMMENT: IT IS LIKELY THAT COSTA GOMES WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY AGAINST UNITA DESPITE FACT THAT PRESENCE OF UNITA OFFICE HERE IS POTENTIAL ROADBLOCK IN OPENING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH RPA. COSTA GOMES UNDOUBTEDLY HAS IN MIND POSSIBLE REACTION BY THE ANGOLAN RETURNEES, WHO UNTIL NOW HAVE NOT REACTED IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY TO RECOGNITION OF MPLA. CARLUCCI

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